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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,457	08/01/2001	Muller Hans-Dieter	P66923US0	3975

7590

05/10/2002

JACOBSON, PRICE, HOLMAN & STERN
PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

EXAMINER

BRIGGS, WILLIAM R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3722

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DATE MAILED: 05/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/918,457

Applicant(s)

HANS-DIETER, MULLER

Examiner

William Briggs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bytow or Girardin.

See figure 3 of Girardin and figure 1 of Bytow.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-16, and 18-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hague et al, 4,335,498 or Anderson.

In Hague et al a gripper movable in multiple axes is also linearly movable to pick up a tool in a magazine and deliver the tool to a spindle. See particularly Figure 23 for details of the gripper contact means. In Anderson, a gripper is movable in multiple axes and is also linearly movable to pick up a tool in a magazine and deliver the tool to a spindle.

Claims 6-12 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silvers, Jr.

See figure 4 wherein first and second "members" grip a tool and at least two grippers 46 are provided for a member and the "grippers are rotated about an axis normal to the longitudinal axis of said tool."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hague et al or Anderson .

Use of a "dripping sheet" and a "drip trough" are considered obvious design expedients to one possessing ordinary skill in the art as coolant ingress would suggest such protective means to minimize the effects thereof. Use of a "spring-like" contact, if not explicit in Hague et al or Anderson, would constitute an obvious design expedient.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 5, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 21, "the workpiece" has no antecedent. In claim 22, "said peripheral groove" and "said second member" have no antecedent. In claim 5, "the liquid cooling circuit" has no antecedent. Regarding claim 10, the phrase "in particular" and in claim 20 the phrase "particularly" renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrases are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP


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§ 2173.05(d). in claim 15, "said members/elements" has unclear antecedent. In claim 17, "said diameter" and "said dimension" have no antecedent.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to William Briggs who may be reached at (703) 308-1739 during his normal duty hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Messages may be left with the Technology Center 3720 receptionist who may be reached Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (703) 308-1148. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Technology Center 3720 at (703)305-3579. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Technology Center 3720 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.



WILLIAM BRIGGS
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3722